



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

Gloria Molina, Chair
Yvonne B. Burke
Zev Yaroslavsky
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2005

PUBLIC MEMBERS

First District

George J. Gliaudys, Esq.
Jane Preece, Esq.

Second District

Paula G. Leftwich
John O. Murrell

Third District

Lucy T. Eisenberg, Esq., Chair
Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Esq.

Fourth District

Jean F. Cohen
Maria C. Tortorelli, Esq.

Fifth District

Reginald Brass
Susan Speir, Vice Chair

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Chief Information Office

Jon W. Fullinwider

Department of

Children and Family Services
Dr. David Sanders

Department of

Public Social Services
Margaret Quinn

Child Support Services

Department
Philip Browning

Los Angeles Superior Court

David Jetton

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

California Department of

Child Support Services
Annette Siler

Franchise Tax Board

Debbie Strong

CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Present

2nd District, Paula Leftwich
2nd District, John Murrell
3rd District, Lucy T. Eisenberg, Esq.
4th District, Jean Cohen
4th District, Maria Tortorelli
5th District, Reginald Brass
5th District, Susan Speir
Children and Family Services,
Sue Harper
Department of Public Social Services,
Rosie Ruiz
Superior Court, David Jetton

Guests

Nick Ipolito
John Allen
Lori Cruz
Wayne D. Doss
Steven Golightly
Larina Jones
Shamara McFarland
Carol Mentell
Julie Paik
Betty Nordwind
Lawrence Hill

Absent

1st District, George J. Gliaudys, Jr., Esq.
1st District, Jane Preece, Esq.
3rd District, Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Esq.

4th District

CSSD
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Harriett Buhai Center
SEIU Local 660

Staff

Lee Millen, Board of Supervisors
Gabe Alexander, Board of Supervisors

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Eisenberg called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. in Room 726-A.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2005

On motion of Ms. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Torterelli, and carried unanimously, the minutes for November 17, 2005 were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Browning reported that:

- The 2007 Federal Budget cuts roughly \$100 million from California state and county child support programs. Each year, California child support departments also compete with those of other states for Data Reliability Audit funds from a federal pool of around \$450 million. In the past, states relied heavily on a 2:1 federal match. The latest budget does not provide these incentives. If legislation is not introduced to meet state shortfall, California will have problems meeting federal performance measures set for child support programs.
- A budget allocation meeting will be held in March, but LCSAs are likely to take much longer to agree on a decisive allocation plan. CSAB is working with CAO statisticians to devise a consistent and predictive model allocation plan to bring before the state.
- The State Disbursement Unit (SDU) is in Wave Three of development, and will meet with its vendor, Bank of America, to consider how best to process high volumes of payments on time. The request for Federal certification needs to be submitted by September, 2006.
- The Department will conduct two Employer Workshops in March.

DCSS REPORT

Karen Echiverria and Mary Lawrence reported by teleconference that:

- Insurance companies court-ordered to insure a CP can evade or delay doing so if they claim to need consent of an uncooperative or estranged NCP. Consequently, many CPs eligible for private insurance remain on MediCal. CSAB members should direct questions on this issue to Mary Lawrence, Regional Administrator of DCSS. Ms. Lawrence and is cooperating with Dan Lewis, Health Services, and the

Departments of Insurance and Managed Care to consider approaches, and will report on their progress in April.

- Mary Lawrence is working with Dan Louis, Chief Counsel, DCSS, who has contacted the Departments of Insurance and Managed Care. Dan/Mary will report back their findings. Questions on this issue should be addressed to Mary Lawrence, Regional Administrator of DCSS.
- On the 1st of February, the SDU implemented Wave Three, and DCSS received 45% of the state caseload on statewide disbursement. The SDU will implement Wave Four on March 1, 2006. DCSS will take on an additional 20% of the state caseload at that time.
- Bill Otterbeck and Mary Lawrence will meet with the SDU transition team February 24th in Los Angeles to discuss managing suspended collections as SDU transitions into each wave. DCSS has not devised a means of collecting interest on these payments, nor has it resolved the process when a court order is involved.
- DCSS is launching a pilot project for COAP that allows NCPs who owe less than \$5,000 of permanently assigned arrears to participate.
- The percentage of NCP's approved for COAP varies significantly between counties, some of which conduct "pre-screening" to eliminate the least qualified applicants before program metrics are actually gathered.

DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGE TO ORDINANCE FOR CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Eisenberg handed out a revised ordinance, which specifies that CSAB meet 10-12 times each year, and that the third bulleted item in the "Qualifications" section should be amended to include CPs and NCPs. On motion of Ms. Torterelli, seconded by Ms. Speir and carried unanimously, the revised ordinance was approved to go before the Board of Supervisors for formalization.

DISCUSS GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING ADDRESSING CONCERNS/DISAGREEMENTS WITH CSSD POLICY

- To prevent future litigation, Ms. Eisenberg has drafted a code of conduct for CSAB. County Council reviewed the draft, adding three items (italicized). Following discussion, Ms. Eisenberg concluded that she needs to conduct additional research on the

legal responsibility of CSAB members to report concerns to the Board of Supervisors. This issue will be addressed again at the April meeting.

- Ms. Eisenberg announced that two members, Jane Preece and George J. Gliaudys, Jr. of the First District have resigned from CSAB out of “frustration about the CSAB’s inability to act efficiently”. In a letter to Supervisor Molina they claim CSAB has lost independent function and become an “adjunct of the department”.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Nordwind has reviewed the original reports and recommendation from the Board of Supervisors for CSAB, and feels the wording does not put enough emphasis on protecting the public. She also feels that CSAB does not have enough information to carry out its duty properly. Ms. Nordwind made a detailed presentation on how the issue of reserved orders arose, including the CSAB's attempts in April and May 2005 to bring the matter to the attention of the Department as well as to the State Department of Child Support Services. She also provided a packet of documents setting out the history of the problem. (copy on file). Ms. Nordwind believes that resolving the reserved order issue should be CSAB's first priority.

REPORT ON PROCESS FOR OBTAINING UPWARD MODIFICATIONS INCLUDING SURVEY OF CASES WHERE NEW EARNINGS DATA IS RECEIVED AND THE CP DOES NO RESPOND TO THE I & E LETTER

- Lori Cruz reported that she could not address this issue upon advice of county counsel. She also reported that a new CP declaration has been approved by the court. The declaration is to be used in cases where the Department locates income information for the NCP and the aided CP fails to return the income and expense declaration. A copy of the declaration was passed out. (Copy on file).
- Ms. Eisenberg recommended Ms. Cruz list instances where she foresees problems with NCP response, which she will present to County Counsel.

REPORT REGARDING NEW CAMPAIGN IN CO-LOATE/INTAKE TO IMPROVE ACCURACY

Wayne Doss reported the following on BPR campaigns:

- Campaign 1 began two years ago. Its objective was to find NCPs’ primary employers to issue a wage assignment.

- Campaign 2 aimed at improving the wage assignment process, staff processing, and ARS programming.
- Campaign 3 aims to double department collection of worker's compensation from NCPs by September 30, 2006. Three teams consisting of staff from the El Segundo, Palmdale, and the Torrance offices have been assigned to evaluate and streamline the collection process. Team 1 will focus on orders to withhold. Team 2 will focus on updating the NEW screening. Team 3 is looking to reduce cases referred to auditors. The campaign will conclude April 15th, 2006, once all procedures and training have been designed and implemented to all divisions. Mr. Doss will report campaign results at the June CSAB meeting.
- Campaign 4 began January, and aims to optimize compliance with federal regulations in the Case-Create Process, a combined effort of the Co-Locate and Central Intake Unit. Ms. Eisenberg requested the Campaign 4 team prepare comparative statistical data that measures processing periods through Centralized Intake.

WAGE ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice Ms. Susan Speir passed out a written summary of the meeting. She reported that:

The committee has been analyzing nonfunctioning wage assignments, as well as military and interstate cases, protracted conversion orders, and incomplete street addresses on forms. They have gathered statistics on the number of wage assignments mailed out each year, which only return about 10%. The main problems are locating NPCs, and following up on a wage assignment in a timely manner. To avoid wasting envelopes and stationary, Mr. Doss suggested printing easy-to-follow return instructions on 45-day follow-up wage assignments, or following up with an automated calling system. (Copy on file)

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.